

22 September 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with John Blandford re Review of U.S. Activities
in the Far East

1. Met with Mr. John R. Blandford, Chief Counsel, House Armed Services Committee, and discussed with him Senator John Cooper's (R., Ky.) statements last week on the floor of the Senate concerning the need for Senate Armed Services and Foreign Relations Committees to review United States activities in Laos and other countries in the Far East and John Finney's column in the New York Times on Saturday, 20 September, relating to Senator Stuart Symington's (D., Mo.) outline of hearings scheduled to begin on 14 October to review U.S. activities in Laos and the Far East. Mr. Blandford indicated that he had been tied up all day Saturday and did not see Finney's item although he was familiar with Senator Cooper's remarks.

2. Mr. Blandford's immediate reaction was that this is a matter for White House determination. He is of the opinion that if the White House and the intelligence community cannot see what is being attempted here by members of the other body - to lay bare the intelligence structure and activities through the American press - then there is little that can be done to forestall the dismemberment of the intelligence community. He noted that the Armed Services Committee intends a closer look-see at intelligence but the present schedule of the Committee will not allow such hearings in the foreseeable future. He gave me the impression that the Committee is having difficulty moving legislation and conducting hearings that are scheduled.

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